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*Application No. 09/934310*  
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*Amendment*  
*Attorney Docket No. S63.2N-8429-US04*

**Amendments To The Claims:****Claims 1-49 (*Canceled*)**

50.(New) A seamless stent having a first end, an opposing second end, and a longitudinal length, the stent having a diameter throughout its length, and comprising:

a plurality of annular elements, each annular element having a compressed state and an expanded state; and

at least a portion of the stent having a tapered portion in the expanded state with the diameter of the stent increasing along the tapered portion and the length of the struts increasing from annular element to annular element along the tapered portion;

wherein the first and second ends have different degrees of flexibility and different diameters.

51.(New) The seamless stent of claim 50 wherein the tapered portion extends over the majority of the length of the stent.

52.(New) A stent cut from a tube of balloon expandable material, the stent having a pattern of openings formed by removing material from the tube, the stent having a first end, an opposing second end, and a longitudinal length, the stent having a diameter throughout its length, the stent being expandable, the stent comprising:

a plurality of annular elements;

the stent when expanded having a tapered portion with the diameter of the stent increasing along the tapered portion and the length of the struts increasing from annular element to annular element along the tapered portion;

wherein the first and second ends have different degrees of flexibility and different diameters.

53.(New) The stent of claim 52 wherein the tapered portion extends over the majority of the length of the stent.

54.(New) A seamless stent having a taper along a majority of its longitudinal length, the diameter of the stent decreasing along the taper, the stent comprising a plurality of annular elements of decreasing longitudinal length along the taper, one end of the stent having a larger diameter than the other end of the stent.

55.(New) The stent of claim 54 made of a balloon expandable material.